



FAITH IN THE HOME

December 2022

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 4, 2022 - Second Sunday of Advent

The Preaching of John the Baptist

PRAY



Dear Jesus, help us to make a straight path for you so it will be easy for you to come to us. Amen.

LEARN

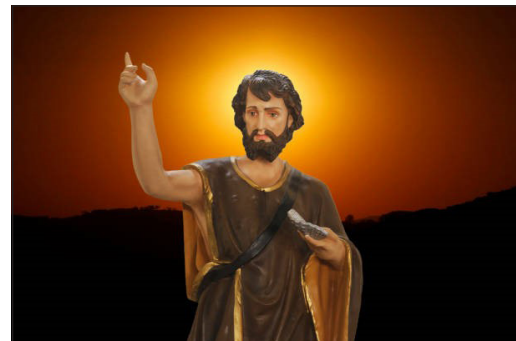


Read Bible: Matthew 3:1-6

Catholic Children's Bible, pp. 1450-51

3 At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. 2 "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" 3 John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said,

"Someone is shouting in the desert,
'Prepare a road for the Lord;
make a straight path for him to travel!'"



4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. 6 They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.



Did You Know?

Once there lived a famous prophet named Isaiah. A prophet is a person that God chooses to announce his message to others. About 800 years before Jesus and John the Baptist were born, Isaiah told people that someone in the desert would be shouting and telling others that Jesus was coming. That person would be John the Baptist, who prepared people to get ready for Jesus.

DISCUSS & DO



The "straight path" in today's Bible reading gives us a picture of how Jesus can enter our hearts. Explain to your children that traveling on a straight path is much easier than a crooked one. In an open area of your home, use painter's tape to outline a path for your children to walk. Set up obstacles with pillows, chairs, etc. After each child walks the path, ask them what got in the way and how they overcame the obstacles. Afterwards, use tape to lay a new straight path without obstacles. Discuss how much easier the straight path was. Encourage them to make a straight path for Jesus so he can easily work with them to be better.

Additional weekly activities for all ages can be found online:

- Catholic Icing — catholicicing.com
- Catholic Mom — catholicmom.com/sunday-mass-activities

December 11, 2022 - Third Sunday of Advent

PRAY Jesus Wants Us To Be A Messenger Like John the Baptist



Dear Jesus, help us to share what we have received from God, so others can see how God's way is the better way to live. Amen.

LEARN



Read Bible: Matthew 11:2-11

Catholic Children's Bible, page 1472

2 When John the Baptist heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him. 3 "Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?"



4 Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: 5 the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean,[a] the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. 6 How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

7 While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind? 8 What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! 9 Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. 10 For John is the one of whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' 11 I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.



Did You Know?

John the Baptist was in prison because he was telling people, including the king, that they were not living the way God wanted them to live and that Jesus would show them how to live. Preparing people to listen to Jesus was one way that John helped Jesus, even if it meant he could go to prison.

DISCUSS & DO

Explain to your children that John the Baptist did the right thing by telling people about Jesus even though John ended up in prison. Sometimes when we talk about Jesus or share his Good News, things might not be pleasant for us. Share with your children a time when you had to do something difficult, but it showed Jesus' love to others. Reiterate that when we pay attention to God and share what we have received from God, then we are helping the world see and know how God's way is better for all of us.

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December 18, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

An Angel Appears to Joseph

PRAY



Thank you, God, for telling Joseph not to be afraid. Help us to listen to you and not be afraid of what you want us to do. Amen.

LEARN



Read Bible: Matthew 1:18-24

Catholic Children's Bible, page 1447

18 This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. 19 Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. 20 While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. 21 She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins." 22 Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, 23 "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us"). 24 So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to.



Did You Know?

In the Bible story, it was very hard for women to have money without being married. Since Mary did not have much money and was not married, she could not buy the things that she needed to raise her baby. But God told Joseph in a dream to marry Mary and take care of Jesus. Joseph did what God told him to do. So together, Mary and Joseph gave baby Jesus all the things that he needed.

DISCUSS & DO



Explain to your children that in today's Bible story Jesus needed the help of Joseph. Jesus needs the help of us too. Like Joseph, we can help others by listening to God and paying attention to what God calls us to do. Then, we will know who we can take care of around us. Have your child think of a family member that they could help by doing an act of kindness for that person.

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December 25, 2022 - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) The Birth of Jesus

PRAY



Dear Jesus, thank you for being with us and for sharing your love with our family this Christmas. Show us how to be good, kind, and generous as you are. Amen.

LEARN



Read Bible: Luke 2:1-14

Catholic Children's Bible, page 1576

2 At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. 3 Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. 4 Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. 5 He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, 6 and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. 7 She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

8 There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, 10 but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. 11 This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! 12 And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

Did You Know?

The Christmas season begins today on Jesus' birthday. It is a season full of joy. The church is decorated with lights, and the priest wears gold or white. At Mass, we celebrate that God's son, Jesus, came 2000 years ago to save us from sin so we could live with him forever. Jesus is still with us today, even though we cannot see him. Jesus is the best gift that God gave to the world! This is the real meaning of Christmas.

DISCUSS & DO

Take your family to church and spend some quiet time in prayer in front of the nativity scene. Reflect on this day and praise God for sending his Son, Jesus, to us! Share his love and joy with everyone you meet!

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FEAST DAYS IN DECEMBER



DECEMBER 6 – SAINT NICHOLAS

Nicholas was born in Turkey 400 years before Jesus. Even though Nicholas' family was very wealthy, he gave most of his money away to poor people. Once there was a man who could not take care of his family; so Nicholas left money in his childrens' shoes. This began the tradition of leaving shoes by the door for Nicholas to fill. "St. Nicholas, pray for us."



DECEMBER 8 – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary was visited by an angel named Gabriel, who told her she would be the mother of Jesus. She was free of original sin caused by Adam and Eve, so she was very special and pure. We celebrate and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary for being so holy. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us."



DECEMBER 9 – SAINT JUAN DIEGO

Juan Diego was a poor man who lived in Mexico 500 years ago. He was a humble and quiet person who had lots of faith. One day, Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to Juan Diego on a path. She told him to go tell the bishop to build a church on that spot where others could worship God. Juan Diego did what Mary asked. The church was built and is still there today. "St. Juan Diego, pray for us."



DECEMBER 13 – SAINT LUCY

Lucy lived in Italy about 300 years after Jesus. She was very generous in bringing food and blankets to people in prison. Her name means "light". Lucy looked to the light of Jesus to give her strength, guidance, and hope. She is the patron saint for people with eye diseases. "Saint Lucy, pray for us."



DECEMBER 27 – SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

John was a fisherman and was one of the first that Jesus called to be an apostle. An apostle is one who is sent to spread Jesus' teachings. In the Bible, John wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. John is known as "the Apostle of Love" and was the only apostle with Jesus when he died on the cross. "St. John the Apostle, pray for us."